

# AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

The Middle-East question has been plaguing the western world on a big scale ever since the collapse of the Ottoman empire in 1918. Before that, for thousands of years, it was the high road of conquest for Genghis Khan, Sennacherib, Alexander the Great, the Caesars, Napoleon, and a less important mixture of greedy and unprincipled despots.

Today, in addition to the basic inherent problems of religious hatreds, hunger, hopelessness, exploitation, illiteracy, we find two new elements which add to the chaos and uncertainty: The establishment of the State of Israel; and the entry of the Soviet Union into Middle Eastern affairs to fill the vacuum created by the decline of British and French power.

Our proposals on the Middle East tend to deal only with temporary measures, with relatively small dollar grants and relatively risky and dangerous military commitments. President Eisenhower's plan for the Middle East is a starter, but like our previous plans is only soothing oil for a deep rooted malignancy of complicated prognosis. Present UN intervention is also a temporary measure to neutralize the unfortunate attack upon Egypt. The real danger is apparent in the present vacuum which finds some 50,000,000 Berbers, Copts, Kurds, etc., who speak the common language of Arabic, who find themselves like their forebears hungry, hopeless, restive, and natural targets for the demagoguery of fanatical nationalists and conspirator Communists.

Add to this the Arab-Hebrew hostility and you have elements that poison the prospects for peace and stability. It is in the atmosphere of such an impasse that we propose some ideas born only from our eye-witness experiences on the Middle East over the past 25 years, and from a genuine desire to formulate other ideas for a solution short of catastrophe and war. For war is imminent unless western leadership can stop the Arab-Moslem coalition from attacking Israel... which attack in all likelihood would engulf the U. S., Europe, Russia, the colonialists of Africa and perhaps the world.

It is our opinion that President Eisenhower's success in bringing King Saud to the U. S. at this time is the greatest triumph of U. S. foreign policy in the Middle East, especially following the President's denunciation of the attack upon Egypt. King Al Saud is the most powerful Arab among 50,000,000 Arabs. His country, Saudi Arabia, is the richest in the Middle East and with the Arabian-Caspian oil deposits of some 60 per cent of the world's oil, their strength and potential is limitless. King Saud is the most outspoken foe of Communism in the Middle East. He has been the source of U. S. intelligence against Russia. He does not need U. S. dollars. We control, through the Arabian-American Oil Co. all of his oil and at 50 per cent royalty, which he receives, he is glad that we do. We believe the President invited him to use him as the key to our Middle East policy. There is no one

who can do it better in the Middle East and he is one Arab capable of whittling Nasser down to size.

Since Egypt will not deal with the present Suez Canal owners, France and Britain, it might deal with a new holding company made up of U. S., Swedish, Dutch and other neutral representatives, only as an alternative. Or, for Britain and France to agree to enter into negotiations with Egypt, but not at a "London-conference" as before, but in Cairo, where such conference belongs. This can be accomplished if Britain, France and Israel compensate Egypt for the damage caused by their recent attack, which in our opinion they should.

An Egyptian canal authority could be established until the expiration of the present Treaty of 1888, which has another 12 years to run to 1969. Egypt is without funds to keep up the canal, nor has it the know-how to improve it. If Egypt is given a reasonable revenue from the canal profits, it is our opinion that she would agree. This is the first obstacle to a solution of the Middle East problem.

Since no peace treaty is possible between Israel and Arab states until the 800,000 refugees are rehabilitated, it would be to the interests of Israel to compensate, or invite back to their homes in Palestine, all former deed holders of property who want to go back and to compensate them for the loss of revenue, and for the use of their property since 1949. The U. S. should consider financial assistance, along with the world bank, to the State of Israel for this purpose. As a further step, the area of Gaza should be given to Israel and the Gulf of Aqaba and other points of contention should be placed under UN trusteeship, so as to allow Israel free movement along the Mediterranean, as well as toward its southernmost port of Elath in the Gulf of Aqaba. Discrimination of Israeli ships in the Suez Canal should be ended.

The former British buffer state of Jordan should be abolished and its impotent king given a pension and removed from the political scene. Nearly 75 per cent of the 1,300,000 present residents of Jordan are refugees supported and fed by the United Nations. Most of these people are Hashemites and belong to Iraq, also a Hashemite kingdom. This would remove this political abortion from the borders of Arab and Jew and create greater stability and realism. All of Jerusalem and Bethlehem should be internationalized and protected by a United Nations permanent police force.

The root of the crisis in the Middle East for centuries

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has been the lack of water... which results in the lack of food. Water is the key to the abolishment of poverty and hunger in the Middle East, as oil is to the area from Iran to Saudi Arabia. There are several sources for water in the Middle East: One is, of course, rainfall and the ability to preserve this rainfall to advantage in reservoirs, which now are almost non-existent. 2. The conversion of salt water to fresh irrigation water through atomic energy. 3. The use of petroleum, which is in abundance and cheap in the Middle East, until atomic energy can take over. 4. The Aswan dam and other similar projects to utilize the force of the Nile to irrigate one-third of the arable land of Egypt. 5. To harness power from the flow of the Tigris, Euphrates and Jordan rivers. If the free world contributed as much for such purposes as we contribute for military weapons abroad, we would

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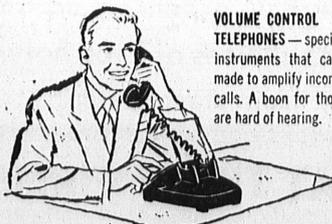


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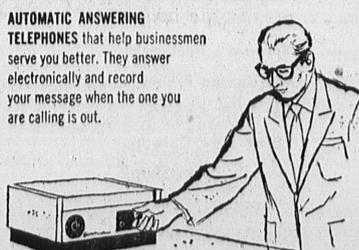
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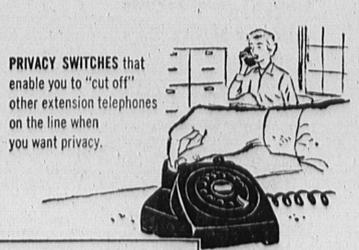
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The United States is in a most enviable position today in the Middle East through the appearance of King Saud in Washington. We should deemphasize the fear of Soviet military invasion, which the Arabs do not take seriously. They don't take it seriously even though it's a real threat, because they are hungry and hopeless... and fears of Russia are secondary to fears of starvation. The U. S. can break the ominous deadlock in the Middle East through King Saud, the United Nations and the World Bank, not through unilateral proposals which commit more of our depleting wealth and give the impression of imperialism to the millions of Arabs who have known nothing but exploitation and oppression at the hands of foreign powers from time immemorial.

### Display of Registration Card

You can save the cost of a new car battery by displaying your auto registration card in its proper place on the steering column.

This advice comes from J. J. Brady, chief of North American Aviation's Los Angeles Division Police Department. His men are putting on a drive to get employees to display their registration cards in the place required by law.

The reason is simple: Proper display of the card enables a car owner to be immediately identified. If his car is locked, he can be notified at his place of work if the lights are on or if anything else is wrong.

Checks Made  
Patrolmen at North American make periodic lane-by-lane checks of the firm's various parking lots. When they discover

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cover a parked car with its lights still on, they try to correct the situation. If the car is unlocked, it's a simple matter to reach in and turn off the lights.

If the car is locked, the patrolman tries to learn the owner's name. This should be easy, Chief Brady says, because California law demands that the white registration card must be fastened to the steering column in such a way that anyone looking in the left front window can read the owner's name.

Many Leave Lights  
"It's surprising," says Brady, "how many otherwise law-abiding citizens fail to observe

this simple law, which is on the books solely to protect the car owner. A person whose card is properly displayed can be called at his place of work and told that his lights are on."

In the company's East parking lot alone, statistics show, an average of eight to 10 people a day leave their lights on or their motors running. During the rainy season, now under way, this average climbs much higher.

"Every driver should check for proper placement of his registration slip," Brady urges. "It may make the difference between getting home on time or being stranded for several hours."

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